

TELEPHONE LOG

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER MARY SHEILA GALL

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
2/3/97
No Mrs. Pennington or
Products Identified
Excepted
Firms Notified
Comments Provided

SUBJECT: 1994 Fire Loss Report

DATE OF CALL: December 11, 1996

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Patsy M. Semple

DATE OF ENTRY: December 11, 1996

COMMISSION PARTICIPANT:
Patsy Semple

NON-COMMISSION PARTICIPANT:
David Baker

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION:

Mr. Baker had attended the multi-purpose lighter petition briefing held December 10th. Commissioner Gall had asked staff several times during questioning if the Commission had any data at this time relative to the effectiveness of the CR disposable lighter standard which went into effect in July of 1994.

Staff responded that fire data is usually two years behind and that the staff did not have available data at this time. Mr. Baker wanted to bring to Commissioner Gall's attention the data contained in the 1994 Fire Loss Report (released Nov. 13 1996) which reflects an increase in deaths to children under five due to child play with lighters from 170 in 1993 to 240 in 1994. Mr. Baker had earlier conversations with staff about this particular data.

He does not know if these deaths are absolute numbers, or a statistical extrapolation. He would assume that a recapture methodology would take into account any improved reporting methods which might account for the increase.

Though the CR standard did not go into effect until July 1994, Mr. Baker stated that Bic and Cricket did have CR lighters on the market prior to the standard taking effect.

He just wanted to point this data out to Commissioner Gall since the staff did not refer to this report at the briefing.